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COMMITTEE ON STATE RESERVES UNDER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS USSR

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[redacted]

At the end of 1938, a Committee on State Reserves was created under the Council of People's Commissars USSR (now Council of Ministers USSR).

The purpose of this committee is to supply the whole national economy and defense system with materials and equipment in case of war.

The committee accumulates and stores stocks of strategic materials and technical equipment which can be used only when necessary in wartime and on the instructions of the supreme command of the country's defense.

The committee is headed by a chairman and three deputies, who direct all operational-economic activity within their competence, in strict accordance with the over-all national economic and defense plans, including the industrial mobilization plan.

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In its work, the committee has close contact with the supreme organ of the national economy, the Council of Ministers, and the State Planning Commission; the Supreme Military Command, and the General Staff of all branches of the army. The committee is ~~under the political~~ supervision of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party. The supervisory staff of the Committee on State Reserves is appointed by the Politburo.

Organization of Committee

1. The committee works out the national plan for the mobilization of industry and the accumulation of strategic reserves, and puts it into effect. Subordinate to this committee are committees on state reserves for republics, autonomous oblasts, krays, and oblasts.

The committee has the right to interfere directly in the work of its subordinate republic, kray, and oblast committees. It is responsible to the Politburo and the Council of Ministers for the performance of its duties.

2. Republic, kray, and oblast committees on state reserves perform the same functions within their own areas.

3. Oblast committees exercise supervision over city and rayon state reserves committees, which work through special agents.

With respect to stockpiling strategic materials and the industrial mobilization plan, defense industry is directly subordinate to the Committee on State Reserves, which has its own agents (upolnomochennyy) in the form of the apparatuses of the Second Section, in all plants important to defense. Until 1939, the Second Section bore the name Mobilization Division. The chief of the Second Section of a factory is subordinate to the chief of the Second Section in a main administration; the chief of the Second Section of a main administration is subordinate to the chief of the Second Section of a ministry; and the latter is subordinate through the minister, and also directly, to the plenipotentiary agent or chief of the /Second/ Section of that type of industry to which the ministry belongs.

With regard to reserves of agricultural products and other materials, the committee works through its agents in rayons, cities, oblasts, autonomous oblasts, krays, and republics, with a subordination system corresponding to the administrative apparatus of the USSR. The committee has the right to interfere directly, through its special agents, in the operations of this apparatus.

Sample List of Strategic Materials and Equipment for Stockpiling

Stocks of items I through VI below sufficient to maintain uninterrupted operation for a period of at least 3 months, and up to a year, must be kept sealed in plant warehouses. These stocks are under the sole authority of the Second Section, that is, the apparatus of the Committee on State Reserves.

I. Nonferrous Metals

1. Copper
2. Silver
3. Tin
4. Zinc
5. Lead
6. Aluminum
7. Magnesium
8. Chromium
9. Nickel
10. Arsenic
11. Antimony
12. Cobalt
13. Mercury
14. Molybdenum

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II. Rare Metals

1. Tungsten
2. Vanadium
3. Radium
4. Uranium
5. Strontium
6. Thorium
7. Ruthenium
8. Osium
9. Rubidium
10. Tellurium
11. Palladium
12. Lithium
13. Cesium

III. Materials

1. Sodium
2. Sulfur
3. Saltpeter
4. Rubber
5. Soda
6. Phosphorus
7. Oils (including castor)
8. Vaseline
9. Naphthalene
10. Aniline
11. Ether
12. Alcohol
13. Rope
14. Leather
15. Fiber
16. Cellulose
17. Antifriction alloys
18. Nonferrous alloys
19. Graphite
20. Mica
21. Diamonds
22. Hard alloys
23. Rubies
24. Carborundum
25. Abrasives
26. Heat-insulation materials
27. Asbestos
28. Chemical salts (potash, chromium salts, cementing compounds).
29. Liquid glass
30. Cement
31. Asphalt
32. [Omitted]
33. Wood
34. Quartz
35. Acids
36. Paraffin
37. Stearin
38. Ivory black
39. Gelatin
40. Lacquers and varnishes
41. Shellac
42. Colophony
43. Iodine
44. Bromine
45. Chemical ware
46. Nickelin (nikkelin)
47. Electrical insulating materials
48. Ceramic products (firebrick, crucibles, etc.)
49. Tar paper
50. Canvas
51. Horsehair
52. Bristles
53. Felt
54. Sealing wax
55. Tar, resin, etc.

IV. Ferrous metals

1. Pig iron
2. Cast iron
3. Steel
4. Alloy steel
5. Transformer iron
6. Ferrosilicon

V. Liquid Fuel

1. High-octane gasoline (benzin)
2. Automobile gasoline (benzin)
3. Gasoline (gazolin)
4. Kerosene
5, 6, 7 [omitted]
8. Mazut
9. Asphalt
10. Crude petroleum

VI. Hard Fuel

1. Coking coal
2. Coke
3. Anthracite
4. Charcoal
5. Shale
6. Bituminous coal

VII. Tools

1. Cutting tools (cutting and milling)
2. Measuring instruments (gages, micrometers, sliding calipers, etc.)
3. Meters (for all types of equipment)
4. Electrical instruments
5. Hand tools
6. Specialized instruments (for means of transport, equipment, machines, machine tools, etc.)

7. Drill bits
8. Files
9. Emery

VIII. Equipment

1. Specialized technological equipment (machine tools, production machinery), amounting to about 20 percent of the total capacity of the plant
2. Engines (up to 25 percent of total capacity)
3. Compressors and other machines
4. Means of transport (automobiles, railroad cars, locomotives, and small trucks)

IX. Armament and Military Equipment

A. Means of transport

1. Railroad equipment
2. Motor transport equipment
3. Maritime and river transport equipment
4. Air transport equipment

B. Armament

1. Artillery of all kinds
2. Firearms
3. Tanks
4. Armored cars
5. Airplanes
6. Antiaircraft equipment
7. Chemical equipment
8. Medical equipment
9. Mortars
10. Flame-throwing equipment
11. Technical equipment (equipment and instruments for field technical services for all branches of the army)
12. Equipment for administrative servicing of troops
13. Means of communication (telephone and radio)
14. Quartermaster supplies

C. Ammunition

1. Shells of various calibers
2. Bombs of all kinds and sizes
3. Grenades of all kinds and sizes
4. Land mines (stationary and projectile /metatel'nyy/)
5. Shrapnel
6. Sea mines
7. Cartridges of various calibers
8. Incendiary, illuminating, and signal supplies

Methods of Accumulating and Storing Reserves

Groups I Through VI (Strategic Materials and Equipment)

1. Plants producing items in groups I through VI are required to have at least a 3-months' stock of nonferrous metals in special warehouses. The exact limits of stocks are established individually in each case.

2. Plants consuming items in groups I through VI are required to have, in special warehouses on the plant grounds, stocks sufficient for continuous production for a period of 1-6 months.

3. The Committee on State Reserves has its own reserves warehouses where stocks of materials from all groups are kept in sufficient quantity for uninterrupted supply of industry for a period of 1-12 months.

In all cases of storage, stocks of each type of material are renewed after a certain period. The storage period for materials customarily varies from one month to 2 years. During the storage period, materials are shipped to industry for use, and are replaced by the same quantity of new stocks.

Group VII (Tools)

1. Plants using tools are required to have, in special warehouses, stocks sufficient for uninterrupted (normal) production for a period of a year.

2. Standard tools such as, for example, drill bits, cutters, milling cutters, micrometers, rulers, etc., are also kept in warehouses, operated by the committee, in sufficient quantities to assure at least a year's normal work by defense industry.

Group VIII (Equipment)

1. The amount of equipment necessary to the work of a plant under full mobilization is increased by 10 to 50 percent (usually up to 20 percent more than required capacity) and is stored directly at the plant where it is to be used. (Large equipment, such as compressors, engines, and large pumps, is stored at the place of installation and sealed up; small equipment, such as electric motors, is stored in the plant's equipment warehouses.)

This equipment may be used only in wartime when the factory's main equipment breaks down or is damaged, and only by special authorization of the organs of the committee.

2. Standard equipment such as electric motors, small pumps, electrical starting apparatus, etc., is also kept in the warehouses of the committee in quantities equivalent to 10 percent of the annual requirements of industry.

Ammunition Group

1. Ammunition plants keep reserves of semimanufactures rather than finished goods in their warehouses; for example, shell cases, cartridge cases, fuzes, etc. No more than 3-months' production is kept.

2. Military stores of all kinds of ammunition, in the amounts set by mobilization plans, are kept in quartermaster depots. The method of storing and renewing stocks is governed by special instructions.

Location of Warehouses (Stocks) of the Committee on State Reserves

I. Nonferrous Metals

a. In plants producing nonferrous metals
b. In plants consuming nonferrous metals
c. In special warehouses of the Committee on State Reserves:

Moscow: (1) town of Reytovo on Moscow-Gor'kiy Railroad (warehouses are located at the railroad station), and the supply base of the People's Commissariat of Nonferrous Metallurgy; (2) Second Freight Station of Moscow Belt Line

Sverdlovsk: Freight station No 2

Chelyabinsk: Freight station

Kuybyshev: river port supply base

II. Rare Metals

a. In plants consuming rare metals
b. In special warehouses of the committee;

Moscow: (1) Reytovo; and (2) supply base of Main Administration of Rare Metals

III. Materials

a. In plants producing materials
b. In plants consuming materials
c. In special warehouses of committee (see Ic above)

IV. Ferrous Metals

a. In plants producing ferrous metals
b. In plants consuming ferrous metals

V. Liquid Fuel

a. Enterprises consuming fuel
b. Supply bases

Moscow: (1) Reytovo petroleum supply base, 18 kilometers east on Gor'kovskoye Shosse (Gor'kiy Highway); and (2) Rostokino petroleum supply base at Rostokino Railroad Station

c. Each of the country's industrial centers has its own petroleum supply base

VI. Solid Fuel

a. Enterprises consuming solid fuel
b. Enterprises producing solid fuel
c. There are central warehouses in every industrial center and, as a rule, at railroad stations

VII. Tools

a. Producer enterprises
b. Consumer enterprises
c. Warehouses of the Committee on State Reserves

Moscow: (1) the town of Reytovo; and (2) the Balashikha warehouses of the Committee at the Balashikha station of the Moscow-Gor'kiy Railroad

VIII. Equipment

a. Plants using equipment
b. Warehouses of the Committee

Moscow: (1) Reytovo supply base; and (2) Balashikha supply base

IX. Ammunition

a. Ammunition plants
b. Quartermaster depots and proving grounds of the military agencies

Moscow: (1) warehouses of Khoroshevo Serebryannyy Bor (Khoroshevo, Moscow Oblast; (2) Sofrino Proving Ground; and (3) Khoroshevo Proving Ground

The system of accumulating and storing state reserves of strategic industrial materials was practically in effect by the beginning of World War II.

It should be borne in mind that in the very first months of the war with Germany the system of state reserves did not achieve its purpose for the following reasons:

Although the whole plan of organization of state reserves was well-conceived and well-organized, both from the standpoint of accumulating reserves and the strategic location of warehouses, which were placed in such a way that the stocks were dispersed and the warehouses containing them located close to the country's chief industrial centers, thereby barring large losses of reserves of materials through military action by the enemy and the overloading of transportation facilities, nevertheless strategic stocks were lost because:

1. The rapid advance of the enemy in occupying the most important industrial areas in southern and southwestern USSR resulted in the loss of a large quantity of stocks.

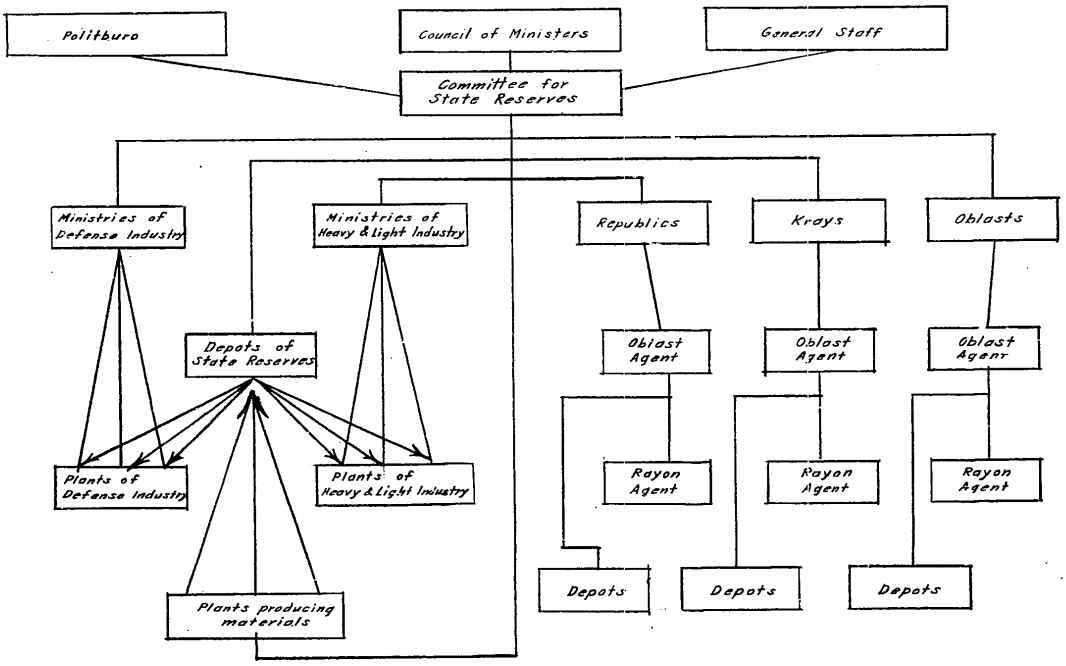
2. As a result of the general disorganized state of USSR industry during the war, a large part of the reserves (not only reserves, but also regular industrial equipment) was lost during evacuation to the eastern part of the country.

3. For these reasons, the retained portion of the theoretically calculated quantity of state material reserves proved, under war conditions, so insufficient that it did not have any positive effect on the normal operation of the Soviet economy during the war. The only source of materials resources on which depended, more or less, the normal work of a part of Soviet industry was the materials received through US Lend-Lease.

Thus, the system of state reserves did not achieve its purpose in the USSR in the recent war. Although not badly conceived from a theoretical standpoint, the system of state reserves did not play a very important part in the Soviet economic system during the war.

[Appended chart follows.]

Chart of Organization of Committee for State Reserves



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